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Consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in 2001

Report of the Secretary-General

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Introduction

1. In resolution 1998/46, the Economic and Social Council agreed that the Secretariat should produce a consolidated report for the consideration of the Council that looks at linkages between the functional commissions and highlights the key points on which the Council needs to consider taking action. The resolution also noted that the Council should, for its part, ensure that it reviews the above-mentioned recommendations, concentrating especially on horizontal and cross-cutting issues, with a view, in particular, to ensuring consistency between recommendations presented by different functional commissions. In past years, the consolidated report analysed selected themes dealt with by the functional commissions over a period of time. In 2000, that period covered the years 1998-2000 (see E/2000/85).

2. Building on that analysis, this year's consolidated report focuses on the work of the Commissions implemented in 2001. The report consists of two parts. Part I first analyses the follow-up by functional commissions to policy guidance provided by the Council in 2000; secondly, it analyses the work of the Commissions in 2001 and identifies the main common themes, issues and approaches that emerged during the reporting period. The analysis is intended to provide the Council with a holistic view of the issues and themes of common interest to several, or all the Commissions in the course of 2001, in order to facilitate the Council's role of providing overall policy guidance. Issues dealt with by a single commission are not covered in the report. Part II reviews the methods of work of the Commissions, including multi-year work programmes, in relation to the guidance provided by the Council in relevant resolutions.

3. The United Nations Forum on Forests is scheduled to hold its first substantive session from 11 to 22 June 2001, that is, after the completion of the present report. As the Forum is a subsidiary body of the Council and operates under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, its work will be included in the analysis of future consolidated reports.

I. Substantive aspects of the work of the Commissions in 2001

A. Follow-up by functional commissions to policy guidance provided by the Council in 2000

4. All functional commissions were seized of the outcome of the Council's substantive session of July 2000 so as to ensure that its policy recommendations could be taken into account in the work of its subsidiary bodies and to further enhance the coordination of the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies (see E/CN.6/2001/11, letter dated 4 October 2000 from the President of the Council to the Chairpersons). In his letter, the Council President identified a number of resolutions and decisions for follow-up, and highlighted in particular the Council's Ministerial Declaration of the 2000 high-level segment on the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy; agreed conclusions 2000/1 of the coordination segment,[1] and agreed conclusions 2000/2 of the coordination segment. The latter, dealing with integrated and coordinated follow-up

to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, are the subject of a separate report (E/2001/73).

5. Table 1 below summarizes the actions and steps taken by the Commissions as a follow-up to the policy guidance provided by the Council in 2000. It also shows any input provided by the Secretariat to facilitate such action.

Table 1
Follow-up action by Commissions to policy guidance provided by the Council in 2000

Commission	*Economic and Social Council guidance*	*Secretariat input*	*Follow-up by Commission*
Status of Women	Ministerial Declaration on Information and Communications Technology	Note by the Secretariat on follow-up to Council resolutions and decisions (E/CN.6/2001/10). The report focused on: Ministerial Declaration on ICT; agreed conclusions 2000/2; res. 2000/26, and 2000/27.	In 2003, the Commission on the Status of Women will discuss as one of two thematic issues "Participation and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women".
	Resolution 2000/26	Idem.	The Commission will address eradication of poverty in 2002, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world (multi-year programme of work, E/CN.6/2001/L.8).
	Agreed conclusions 1997/2		The Commission reaffirmed the importance of gender mainstreaming for the achievement of gender equality, and noted ongoing efforts by the Secretary-General, the United Nations system and the ACC Inter-Agency Meeting on Women and Gender Equality. It called on the Council to establish a regular item, in its general segment, on gender mainstreaming; and to devote a future coordination segment, by 2005, to a review of the implementation of agreed conclusions 1997/2 (E/CN.6/2001/L.6).
Statistical	Ministerial Declaration on ICT	Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2001/21) on elements of Council action that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. It focused on: Ministerial Declaration on ICT; agreed conclusions 2000/2; res. 2000/27.	The Commission noted current and planned work on methodology and collection of statistics of e-commerce at the national and international levels (agenda item 6 (h)). The Commission considered that the actions outlined in the report of the Secretary-General were consistent with the Council's requests and adequately reflected the relevant work being undertaken and planned by the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division (agenda item 6 (g)).

Commission	*Economic and Social Council guidance*	*Secretariat input*	*Follow-up by Commission*
		Included a summary of United Nations Statistics Division's advisory services and technical assistance activities on upgrading IT and hardware for statistical applications in several regions.	
	Resolution 2000/27	Report of the Secretary-General on coordination of development indicators (E/CN.3/2001/16).	The Commission accepted the invitation by the Council to serve as the intergovernmental focal point for the review of conference indicators and considered this work as a welcome opportunity to contribute its technical expertise to the ongoing debate on indicators. In this context the Commission emphasized the importance of the need (i) for national statistical capacity-building, (ii) for the effective user-producer dialogue on indicators and (iii) to reduce the overburdening of countries with data requests. It agreed with the proposed action plan proposed by the Statistics Division for the implementation of the resolution (E/CN.3/2001/16, annex II), agreed to the appointment by the Chair of a "friends of the Chair advisory group" to technically validate the conference indicators, to elaborate recommendations for a limited list of indicators and to make proposals for a mechanism of statistical review of future indicators. The Statistical Commission expressed its doubts that a single limited set of indicators could satisfy the various national, regional and specialized sectoral needs and emphasized the need for flexibility (agenda item 6 (c)).
Population and Development	Ministerial Declaration on ICT	Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in 2000 of the Population Division (E/CN.9/2001/5, paras. 33-36), summarizing efforts to increase access to substantive population information at interregional, regional and national levels, through the Internet-based POPIN	The Bureau emphasized the importance of POPIN and its usefulness both from an academic and a policy point of view and strongly recommended that it should be continued with the support of UNFPA and the Population Division (E/CN.9/2001/CRP.1).

Commission	*Economic and Social Council guidance*	*Secretariat input*	*Follow-up by Commission*
		(Population Information Network), and on technical cooperation to strengthen national capacity in this regard.	
Human Rights	Agreed conclusions 1997/2, 1998/2		Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/50 invites the Council to give attention to the implementation of Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 and 1998/2; and welcomes the Commission on the Status of Women's request that the Council devote a future coordination segment, by 2005, to the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of agreed conclusions 1997/2.
Science and Technology for Development	Ministerial Declaration on ICT	Presentation by H.E. Jose Maria Figueres, Chairperson of the United Nations Advisory Group on Information and Communications Technology	Draft resolution I (for adoption by the Council), in which the Council would decide to follow up its work on ICTs through its Bureau or, if necessary, through the creation of a subcommittee of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. The Council would also decide that the Commission, during the inter-sessional period 2001-2003, cover the theme "Technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society".
Sustainable Development	Ministerial Declaration on ICT		Decision 9/4 on information for decision-making and participation also addresses the role and use of information and communications technologies, including the Internet, for sustainable development.
	Resolution 2000/27		In decision 9/4, the Commission also discussed approaches to indicators of sustainable development in the light of Council resolution 2000/27.
Human Settlements	Agreed conclusions 2000/1	Ways of implementing the agreed conclusions were discussed in a report of the Executive Director (HS/C/18/4).	Resolution 18/5 on international cooperation and the review of mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda welcomes agreed conclusions 2000/1, and requests the Executive Director to take steps for their implementation.
Social Development	Resolution 2000/25 on volunteerism	Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2001/6).	Resolution on volunteering and social development highlights the role of volunteering, including government and United Nations system support for the creation of a favourable environment in support of voluntary action for social development.

6. The work of the Statistical Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women was facilitated by a report of the Secretary-General and a note by the Secretariat analysing the Council's policy guidance of 2000 for its particular relevance to these two bodies, together with indications of the actions already taken and proposals for further action (E/CN.3/2001/21, and E/CN.6/2001/10, respectively). Implementation of Council agreed conclusions 2000/1 was covered in a report submitted to the Commission on Human Settlements. The Chairperson of the United Nations Advisory Group on Information and Communications Technology made a presentation to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

7. In an effort to promote more harmonization and coordination in the work of the functional commissions, a note was prepared for the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2001/L.5) on the ongoing activities of the other eight functional commissions for their statistical implications, and in order to facilitate such activities to be taken into account by the Statistical Commission in its own present and future work. Its focus was on statistics, data and information in a broad sense. The note proposed to draw out the specific implications for international statistical work in two areas, namely, those of the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development, for the thirty-third session of the Statistical Commission (2002). Since 1997, the analysis of the work of all functional commissions in regard to their attention to gender issues in follow-up to the Beijing Conference has been submitted in an annual report to the Council (see, for example, E/2000/77).

8. From table 1 above, the following conclusions can be drawn with regard to follow-up by Commissions to policy guidance that emanated from the Council's substantive session of 2000:

(a) Information and communications technology (Ministerial Declaration 2000): This issue has been addressed from various perspectives by five Commissions in the course of 2001, and will remain an issue of attention in the future. The Council's adoption of the Ministerial Declaration has given further impetus to this work. The attention of the Commissions has focused on the use of ICT as a tool in furthering the goals and objectives of their work. Questions of participation and access with regard to ICT will be a priority theme of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2003, and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development will carry out work on technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society during its next inter-sessional period.

(b) Gender mainstreaming (Council agreed conclusions 1997/2): The Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights reaffirmed the importance of gender mainstreaming for the achievement of gender equality, and further action by the Council to review implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 was called for.

(c) Development indicators (Council resolution 2000/27): Both the Statistical Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women addressed indicators at their 2001 sessions. The question of indicators for monitoring conference follow-up has been on the Council's agenda in the past, and is expected to be taken up again in 2002 on the basis of the technical expertise that will be contributed by the Statistical Commission.

B. Analysis of common themes, issues and approaches in the work of the Commissions in 2001

9. The following section analyses the work of the Commissions in 2001 and identifies the main common themes, issues and approaches of the reporting period. The analysis is intended to provide the Council with a holistic view of the issues and themes of common interest to several, or all of the Commissions in the course of 2001, in order to facilitate the Council's role of providing overall policy guidance.

10. In accordance with a Council recommendation encouraging each commission to adopt practices best suited to its mandate and responsibilities (resolution 1998/46, annex II, para. 1), Commissions have generally kept their methods of work under review, adjusting them as necessary. The major difference in working methods for purposes of the present analysis is the fact that several Commissions have adopted multi-year programmes of work, according to which, each year they consider different priority topics or issues. Other Commissions consider the same or similar issues over a number of years, and also adopt outcomes on these discussions annually. When reviewing the work of the functional commissions over a one-year time period, the difference in working methods is relevant as the annual output produced is the result of a particular working method rather than an indication of the limited attention to some issues.

11. As in the past, in 2001, the functional commissions have moved forward policy development in major issues of concern to the global community. Through their output, they contributed sectoral expertise to a number of ongoing processes.

12. Poverty eradication, a focus for most of the functional commissions in the past (see E/2000/85, table 4, and paras. 27-32), took on additional importance during the reporting period in the light of the commitment undertaken in the Millennium Declaration to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people living in extreme poverty. Issues in relation to an enabling environment remained under consideration. Environment and development issues are taking on renewed momentum as preparations intensify for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. Science and technology, including ICT, received sustained attention.

13. Gender mainstreaming in sectoral areas has become more systematic in the reporting period. HIV/AIDS was once again, as in past years (see E/2000/85, table 8, and paras. 47-50), a focus in a number of commissions. Shelter and human settlements questions received more attention than in the past, reflecting the comprehensive five-year review of Habitat II (6-8 June 2001).

14. Commissions also dealt with means of implementation, including resource mobilization, capacity-building, data collection and research, and information and knowledge sharing. One aspect which figures prominently in the work of the Commissions but had not been part of the analysis in the past is highlighted for the first time in the present consolidated report, namely, participation and partnerships.

1. Poverty eradication

15. The commitment to reduce poverty and to prevent people from falling into poverty was an overarching theme in the discussions of the Commission for Social Development on enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalizing world. A Chairperson's summary of a panel discussion reflected the complex nature of social protection and the diverse challenges faced by

Governments and the international community in developing viable policy approaches.

16. Poverty eradication, including environmental, financial and social aspects, was an integral part of the session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. In its work on energy, for example, the Commission highlighted access to affordable energy services in rural areas as a particular challenge in halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015 (decision 9/1). Transport was stressed as an important factor in policies and measures to eradicate poverty and promote gender equality (decision 9/3).

17. The Commission on Human Rights continued its ongoing discussion of the human rights dimensions of poverty, including as they relate to extreme poverty (resolution 2001/31), the right to food (resolution 2001/25), and the enjoyment of the whole range of human rights in general. In several of these areas, the Commission has appointed Special Rapporteurs to provide input to its discussions. The Commission has highlighted the particular vulnerability and disadvantage of persons and communities living in extreme poverty, as well as the gender aspects in the context of human rights and poverty. Attention was paid to the role and contribution of the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions, towards the eradication of poverty through a rights-based approach. The Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights was requested to consider the need to develop guiding principles on the implementation of existing human rights norms and standards in the context of the fight against extreme poverty.

18. The Commission on Human Settlements considered that equal access to land and legal security of tenure were key elements in slum upgrading and in poverty eradication strategies (resolutions 18/10 and 18/3). The Commission on the Status of Women emphasized the link between policies towards the eradication of poverty and women's empowerment and women's increased capacity to deal with the adverse effects of HIV/AIDS and to protect themselves from the spread of the pandemic (agreed conclusions on HIV/AIDS). The Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered the question of poverty eradication in conjunction with alternative development programmes to the illicit cultivation of drug crops. In a draft resolution, it called for greater support for such programmes, including market access (E/CN.7/2001/L.4/Rev.1).

19. Commissions continue to assess the links between sectoral policies and poverty reduction and eradication. This effort is taking on new urgency as steps are being taken towards achieving the quantitative goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration. Commissions could be invited to assess, in greater depth, the impact of particular policies on poverty reduction goals, and to identify good practices and lessons learned so as to increase the sharing of knowledge among all relevant actors, including functional commissions.

2. Enabling environment

20. The importance of building an enabling environment for development through a broad range of actions, as exemplified in the work of functional commissions was highlighted in last year's consolidated report (E/2000/85, table 2, and paras. 18-23). Issues such as macroeconomic policy frameworks conducive to development, external debt, ODA and finance for development, international trade and

commodities, globalization and structural adjustment are commonly considered under this general heading. Some aspects of the enabling environment are taking on particular visibility as preparations continue for the International Conference on Financing for Development, scheduled to take place in March 2002 in Mexico. The special session of the General Assembly to review progress in the implementation of Habitat II (6-8 June 2001) is also expected to cover issues of an enabling environment as they pertain to human settlements development.

21. During the reporting period, the treatment of the issue of an enabling environment and its sub-themes varied among commissions. While both the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women reviewed many related aspects during 2000 as part of the overall review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of their respective conferences, their treatment of this issue in 2001 was more limited, especially in the Commission for Social Development.

22. The Commission on Sustainable Development gave the most consistent and in-depth attention to the question of international cooperation for an enabling environment, and in particular to resources for development (decision 9/5). It also discussed the need for financial resources, including ODA and debt relief, in relation to energy, transport, and protection of the atmosphere (decisions 9/1, 9/2 and 9/3), stressing the need to fulfil the financial commitments of Agenda 21.

23. The Commission on Human Rights continued to deal with debt-related and resource issues in relation to an enabling environment and human rights (including resolutions 2001/27, on structural adjustment policies and foreign debt; 2001/9, on the right to development; 2001/25, on the right to food; 2001/30, on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; and 2001/73, on international solidarity). It also continued consideration of globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights, requesting the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a comprehensive report on this subject, in cooperation with UNCTAD (resolution 2001/32). It should be noted that the Commission on Human Rights was able to reach consensus only on some of these questions.

24. Several Commissions expressed support for efforts to alleviate the debt burdens, especially through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. This was the case in the Commission on the Status of Women, which considered such debt relief as an important element in achieving the goals of HIV/AIDS prevention for women (Commission on the Status of Women, agreed conclusions). Opportunities that might arise from debt relief and ODA for human settlements development were highlighted by the Commission on Human Settlements (18/5).

25. As a cross-cutting issue common to the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s, an enabling environment and its sub-themes continued to be part, albeit not to the same extent, of the work of the Commissions as they reviewed particular topics within their mandates.

3. Environment and development

26. During the reporting period, two commissions, namely the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Commission on Population and Development, dealt with environment and development questions, or aspects thereof, as priority issues. The Commission on Sustainable Development considered atmosphere,

energy and transport as sectoral and economic themes. The Commission highlighted linkages to related issues and problems, especially the interdependency of energy, transport and atmosphere. It pointed to complex challenges of policy-making, resource and technology requirements, and equity as well as equality issues. With its 2001 session, the Commission completed its 1998-2002 work programme devoted to particular sectoral and cross-sectoral themes emanating from Agenda 21 and its five-year review of 1997. At its tenth session (2002), the Commission will act as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2-11 September 2002).

27. The theme of this year's session of the Commission on Population and Development, as a contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, focused on population, environment and development and the critical linkages between these issues. The Commission highlighted linkages among population, consumption and production, the environment and natural resources, and human health. In assessing these linkages, particular attention was drawn to levels, trends and differentials of mortality, fertility, distribution and mobility, and the role of population and development policies, as well as gender perspective, and the need for further research in these areas (resolution 2001/1).

28. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice addressed the links between transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna (draft resolution II for adoption by the Council). The Commission on Narcotic Drugs dealt with alternative development to support countries affected by illicit cultivation of narcotic crops as one of the means for countering the world drug problem (draft resolution E/CN.7/2001/L.4/Rev.1).

29. The Commission on Human Rights has been concerned for some time with the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights. It considered the adverse impact of such actions for a sound environment (resolution 2001/35). The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme were invited to organize a joint seminar on progress made in promoting and protecting human rights in relation to environmental questions and in the framework of Agenda 21 (decision 2001/111).

30. The Statistical Commission continued its work in the field of natural resources and environment statistics, where the main focus was on revising the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA). It is the stated intention of the Statistical Commission to approve the revised SEEA in 2002.

31. The work of the Commission on Population and Development complemented that of the Commission on Sustainable Development during the reporting period, especially as it provided a stronger research base for considering the links between environment, population and development in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development. Other Commissions dealt with specific issues that could usefully be taken into account in the preparations for Rio+10. The Commission on the Status of Women will consider the gender perspective in environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters in 2002, thus also contributing to the World Summit.

4. Science and technology, including Information and Communications Technology

32. Issues relating to science and technology, including Information and Communications Technology (ICT), were taken up by several Commissions in 2001. The Commission on Sustainable Development addressed the need for access to and transfer of technologies in the sectoral areas dealt with at its session (i.e., atmosphere, transport, energy, as well as international cooperation for an enabling environment), and pointed to the role of technology cooperation in this regard.

33. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development assessed the role and potential of biotechnology in a number of fields, including health, environment and agriculture. It highlighted actions to be taken by Governments, with the support of the international community, to establish national policy regimes that support development in biotechnology. In highlighting the Council's work of 2000 on ICT in creating a global knowledge-based economy, the Commission proposed to the Council that it take on an active role in this area, if necessary through the creation of a subcommittee of the Commission (draft resolution I). The Commission took a particular interest in the United Nations ICT Task Force, called for by the Council in resolution 2000/29, and held a dialogue with the Chairperson of the United Nations Advisory Group on Information and Communications Technologies.

34. The Statistical Commission noted current and planned work on methodology and collection of statistics of e-commerce at the national and international levels (item 6 (h)). The Commission on Narcotic Drugs highlighted the role of modern technology in the collection and dissemination of information on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals. It recommended a number of steps towards expanding the use of the national database system by implementing the computer and telecommunication system for international and national drug control developed by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (draft resolution E/CN.7/2001/L.13/Rev.1). The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was concerned about the increasing use of sophisticated technologies in illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna (draft resolution II).

35. Information technology, especially the Internet, facilitate information and knowledge sharing through databases, collections of best practices and lessons learned. This was emphasized by the Commission on Human Settlements, which encouraged the expansion of the Habitat Best Practices Database in sustainable human settlements development and urban poverty reduction at the local level. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development drew attention to the newly created electronic Science and Technology for Development Network (STDev) as a means for information dissemination on science and technology, including biotechnology. The Statistical Commission expressed its support for the statistical web sites of the United Nations, including good practices in official statistics containing country practices. The Commission on Sustainable Development addressed the role and use of information and communications technologies, including the Internet, for sustainable development (decision 9/4). The Commission on Population and Development has in the past expressed its support for the Internet-based POPIN (Population Information Network) and its usefulness from an academic as well as policy point of view, and the Commission on the Status

of Women has welcomed WomenWatch, the United Nations Internet gateway on the advancement and empowerment of women.

36. Commissions continue to assess the role of science and technology for their areas of responsibility. Growing interest and focus is being placed on the role and potential of ICT in pursuing the goals and commitments of major United Nations conferences, summits and General Assembly special sessions. The Council's Ministerial Declaration of 2000 can be expected to continue to provide guidance to the work of the Commissions in this field. The Council could encourage its Commissions to strengthen their attention to the role of ICT for development in their areas of responsibility.

5. Gender mainstreaming

37. The achievement of gender equality as an end in itself, but also as a key aspect in the achievement of other goals, is becoming a well-established part of the work of the functional commissions. While the Commission on the Status of Women has primary responsibility in this area, other commissions are using the gender mainstreaming strategy to reflect gender issues in their work.

38. During the reporting period, the Commission on the Status of Women dealt with two priority issues, namely, HIV/AIDS, and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The agreed conclusions adopted on these subjects constituted inputs into the respective upcoming high-level events (special session of the General Assembly, and World Conference).

39. As in past years, the Commission on Human Rights considered the integration of the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system, calling on human rights mechanisms and other bodies to mainstream a gender perspective in their work (resolution 2001/50). It also emphasized human rights concerns of particular relevance to women, as well as gender considerations, in many areas, including in country-specific and thematic resolutions. In addition, it dealt with traffic in women and girls (2001/48), and the elimination of violence against women (2001/49). Traffic in women and girls and the elimination of violence against women are core concerns of the Commission on the Status of Women in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its +5 review, and will be taken up in 2003, in accordance with its multi-year programme of work. The General Assembly deals with both issues on a biennialized basis.

40. Other Commissions, notably the Commission on Human Settlements, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission for Social Development, and the Commission on Population and Development, addressed gender perspectives as part of sectoral topics. In doing so, gender-specific constraints that women face and that require action were identified in conjunction with security of tenure and access to land (Commission on Human Settlements, 18/10), transport (Commission on Sustainable Development, 9/3), energy technologies (Commission on Sustainable Development, 9/1), and participation, including in decision-making (Commission for Social Development, resolution on volunteerism; Commission on Sustainable Development 9/4; Commission on Human Settlements, 18/10). The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommended that the Council renew the mandate of its Gender Advisory Board for a further four years. The Statistical

Commission continued consideration of gender statistics, in particular gender issues in the measurement of paid and unpaid work (item 3 (c)).

41. Attention to gender equality issues by the functional commissions has been greatly supported by the Council's guidance, in agreed conclusions 1997/2, on gender mainstreaming. Detailed analysis of the work of all functional commissions concerning gender aspects is contained in E/2001/78, Report on follow-up to, and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

42. In the light of the cross-cutting nature of gender equality, the Commission on the Status of Women continues its coordination with other functional commissions, in particular the Commission on Human Rights (see para. 99 below). Further efforts in this regard may be desirable in selected areas, such as violence against women, traffic in women, and the integration of the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system by, for example, biennializing items, preparing joint reports, or identifying lead commissions. The Commission on the Status of Women has recommended that the Council continue to support gender mainstreaming by establishing a regular item on its agenda, in the context of its general segment, on gender mainstreaming, and by reviewing implementation of Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 at a future coordination segment, by 2005 (Commission on the Status of Women draft resolution).

6. HIV/AIDS

43. The urgency of addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic was confirmed by the convening of a special session of the General Assembly in June 2001, and the personal priority accorded to this challenge by the Secretary-General. Efforts are under way to establish a Global AIDS and Health Fund, for which US$ 7-10 billion are being sought annually. UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, which has seven co-sponsors (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNDCP, UNESCO, WHO and World Bank), advocates for worldwide action against HIV/AIDS.

44. Several commissions covered this question in 2001. The Commission on the Status of Women drew attention to the increasing percentage of women being infected by HIV, the higher infection rate of teenage girls compared to those of teenage boys, and to the fact that women constitute 55 per cent of those living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. It recommended actions for: the empowerment of women; prevention; treatment, care and support; and an enabling environment for regional and international cooperation. It also called for the full integration of a gender perspective in the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS (25-27 June 2001). In adopting these agreed conclusions, the Commission continued work it had done in this area in 1999 and 2000.

45. The Commission on Human Rights dealt with the protection of human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS (resolution 2001/51), covering issues such as prevention, access to treatment and care, and the prohibition of HIV-related discrimination. It stressed the need for protecting HIV-related human rights, and called on Member States, various human rights mechanisms and United Nations entities to address HIV-related human rights. It also dealt, for the first time, with the specific question of access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, and addressed the need for policies to promote availability of pharmaceuticals,

accessibility without discrimination, and appropriateness and good quality of pharmaceuticals (2001/33). HIV/AIDS was also part of resolutions dealing with freedom of opinion and expression in relation to education on and prevention of HIV infection (2001/47); and on the rights of the child (2001/75), calling for support to children and their families affected by HIV/AIDS, and for effective prevention. These resolutions built on work done by the Commission in 1999 and 2000.

46. The Commission on Population and Development reviewed the demographic implications of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with the impact of HIV/AIDS being explicitly incorporated in the projections of the population of highly affected countries. The number of countries in this category has risen from 34 in 1998 to 45 in 2000, as reflected in the report on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2001/4, paras. 37-45). Of these countries, 35 are in sub-Saharan Africa.

47. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs discussed the question of HIV/AIDS during its operational segment. It called on the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to continue to work closely with countries where drug injection is a driving force behind HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

48. The special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS can be expected to build on the work of the intergovernmental machinery in recent years. Following its conclusion, efforts should be undertaken to ensure that relevant Commissions, as well as the Council in its coordination and oversight responsibilities, integrates the special session's outcome into their own work for effective implementation and follow-up.

7. Shelter and human settlements

49. The Commission on Human Settlements has lead responsibility in this sector in the follow-up to Habitat II, and also serves as preparatory body for the five-year review of Habitat II (special session of the General Assembly, 6-8 June 2001). During its eighteenth session, the Commission dealt with security of tenure and urban governance as its special themes, which also formed the subject of the dialogue with local authorities and other partners. It provided further guidance on the implementation of the two global campaigns concerning secure tenure and urban governance. Particular emphasis is placed on the need for women and those living in poverty to have access to land and security of residential tenure (resolution 18/3). The role of local authorities, particularly in the two global campaigns, also received extensive attention (18/10).

50. Other Commissions addressed various aspects of shelter and human settlements issues during the reporting period. The Commission on Human Rights continued its consideration of adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living. The work of the Commission's Special Rapporteur, appointed in 2000, provided the impetus for this discussion. Particular emphasis was placed by the Commission on ensuring that questions of adequate housing were integrated into the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and into the operational activities of the United Nations system. To that end, strengthened cooperation between the OHCHR and the UNCHS was encouraged, including consideration of a joint housing rights programme (resolution 2000/28). A second aspect of the Commission's work focused on women's equal ownership of, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing. This question was particularly highlighted for attention in the development of a housing

rights programme (resolution 2000/34). The Commission on the Status of Women had addressed the question of land rights discrimination in the past (resolution 42/1 of 1998). The Statistical Commission considered human settlements statistics (item 3 (a)).

51. Issues relating to population, environment and development in urban settings were presented to the Commission on Population and Development. Focus was placed on: the relationship between city size, rate of growth and urban environmental problems; the city environment; environmental impacts on urban health; and cities and sustainable development. These research findings contributed to the five-year review and appraisal of Habitat II (resolution 2001/1).

52. In its consideration of transport issues, the Commission on Sustainable Development highlighted the environmental impact of transport-related activities and infrastructure, including their effect on human settlements, urban conditions and land use (decision 9/3).

53. The work of the Commissions in 2001 on shelter and human settlements was in large part in line with their particular perspectives. Several cross-cutting dimensions, in particular the human rights and the gender perspective, can be noted. This provides opportunities, especially in the follow-up to action taken, for several Commissions to seek greater interaction in future, including for example, joint reports, exchange of relevant reports and resolutions, joint Bureau meetings, or joint programming, as suggested by the Commission on Human Rights.

8. Means of implementation

54. Commissions, within their areas of responsibility, commonly put forward recommendations for action at the national, regional and international levels, and in many instances invite different stakeholders to contribute to their implementation, in addition to Governments. In addition to policy action, Commissions specify various means of implementation that are expected to be most conducive to achieving identified policy goals. Particular attention is frequently given to resource mobilization, capacity-building, research and data collection, and information and knowledge sharing.

(a) Resource mobilization

55. Several Commissions drew attention to the linkages between the achievement of progress in particular areas and the availability of financial resources and mechanisms to developing countries. They called for the support by the international community in this regard, including of United Nations Funds and Programmes, the international financial institutions and other donors.

56. The Commission on Sustainable Development, drawing attention to the need to fulfil all financial commitments of Agenda 21, underlined the need for financial resources to meet the challenges and interdependencies in the areas of energy, transport and atmosphere. The Commission on Human Settlements called for the mobilization of additional international financial and technical support for the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (resolution 18/5). The Commission on Narcotic Drugs exhorted the international financial institutions and other potential donors to provide financial assistance, for example, to States most affected by the transit of drugs, for alternative development programmes to

eliminate illicit drug crops, and support various regional and national drug control efforts. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development proposed that a special trust fund be established within UNCTAD for activities in the area of science and technology for development (draft resolution II). The Commission on Human Rights highlighted the need to mobilize technical and financial resources in several areas, including in conjunction with the right to food, and with structural adjustment policies and foreign debt. The Commission on Population and Development regularly reviews the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD.

57. Other aspects of resource mobilization, in particular ODA and debt relief, were raised by a number of Commissions (see paras. 22-24 above).

(b) Capacity-building

58. During the reporting period, several Commissions emphasized the need for capacity-building in the thematic areas under review. In general, Governments were invited to focus on this area at the national level, with the support of the international community, especially the entities of the United Nations system, as well as private actors. Depending on the area, capacity-building should be pursued for both, Government and civil society actors, through training, human resources development, institutional development, strengthening of technological and management capacities, and networking and related activities. Technical cooperation and financial resources are needed towards those ends.

59. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development, for example, devoted its inter-sessional period 1999-2001 and its 2001 session to the question of national capacity-building in biotechnology, focusing on capacity-building, legal and regulatory issues, and on public awareness and participation in science policy-making in biotechnology (see E/CN.16/2001/2). It encouraged Governments to establish policy regimes in support of biotechnology development, and invited the international community and UNCTAD to support such efforts in a coordinated manner (draft resolution I). The Commission on Sustainable Development recommended international cooperation to enhance capacity-building in the sectors chosen for consideration at its 2001 session, i.e., transport, protection of the atmosphere, energy services, and use of information and communications technologies (decisions 9/1, 9/2 9/3 and 9/4), including human and institutional development, planning and technological capacity. The Statistical Commission continued to support initiatives for statistical capacity-building at the national level, including, for example, on indicators and a new initiative on household surveys particularly in Africa (action under items 6 (c) and 6 (i)). Support to strengthen capacity of Governments, as well as of women's groups and networks in fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic was highlighted by the Commission on the Status of Women (agreed conclusions). Capacity-building and technical cooperation were considered important elements in international drug control efforts, and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs highlighted opportunities for increasing support for capacity-building in a number of areas. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice identified the need for capacity-building in several areas, including to support the implementation of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto, and to combat the transfer of funds from illicit origins, particularly corruption (draft resolutions E/CN.15/2001/L.9/Rev.3, and L.12/Rev.1). The Commission on the Status of Women intends to take into account

institutional capacity-building as a cross-cutting issue in its future thematic work (multi-year programme of work).

(c) Data collection and research

60. Another area frequently highlighted by Commissions as tools for accelerated implementation of recommended action was data collection and research. The Statistical Commission continued to provide leadership on data collection, methodology development, and dissemination instruments in various fields of economic, social and environmental statistics, and the Commission on Population and Development on analysis of population phenomena. Other Commissions, such as on the Status of Women, Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements, emphasized during the reporting period the need for data disaggregated by sex, and for indicators in areas such as access to resources and basic services, decision-making, violence against women, and energy technologies. Further methodological development and harmonization was encouraged in areas such as city statistics (Statistical Commission, Commission on Human Settlements, and Commission on Population and Development), drug abuse and dependence and types of substances consumed (Commission on Narcotic Drugs), and transport-related information (Commission on Sustainable Development).

(d) Information and knowledge sharing

61. As noted by the Commission on Sustainable Development, significant gaps remain in the availability and uses of information in many countries. During the reporting period, Commissions have consistently emphasized the need for information and knowledge sharing to increase awareness of issues and improve capacity for action. Examples included the global campaigns for secure tenure and urban governance of the Commission on Human Settlements, emphasizing normative dialogue, awareness-raising, capacity-building and technical cooperation (Commission on Human Settlements, resolution 18/3). The Commission on Human Rights continued to emphasize information dissemination on human rights through the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the ongoing Decade for Human Rights Education. Information and knowledge sharing on technologies and policies were seen as conducive to achieving energy for sustainable development, and improved transportation systems, as noted by the Commission on Sustainable Development. Several Commissions covered the role of information and communications technologies, especially the Internet, to strengthen information and knowledge sharing (see para. 35 above).

62. Capacity-building is taking on particular urgency at a time when major emphasis is placed on national ownership in the development dialogue, including in processes such as the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF), and the Comprehensive Development Framework and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (see also the reports on Operational Activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation at the substantive session of 2001 of the Council). The Council may seek further input from its functional commissions on the role of resource mobilization, capacity-building, research and data collection and information and knowledge sharing in their respective areas, with a particular focus on impact, gaps, good practices and lessons learned, and the types of capacity-building most commonly sought in the implementation of conference and summit outcomes. The

Council could also consider taking up this issue in a comprehensive manner at an appropriate time in one of its future coordination segments.

9. Partnerships and participation

63. While primary responsibility for implementing the outcomes of the conferences of the 1990s and their follow-up reviews rests with Governments, these documents also emphasize cooperation and partnerships with other actors for the achievement of stated goals. The Council, in its Ministerial communiqués, agreed conclusions and other policy guidance, has in general identified participation of and partnerships among multiple stakeholders as important action strategies. The question of partnerships with stakeholders is an important part of this year's coordination segment of the Council.

64. The importance of participation of, and partnership with, NGOs, civil society, local authorities and major groups, the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions, regional development banks and other actors from the development cooperation community, as well as the private sector have been identified by Commissions during the reporting period for a broad range of activities. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its first thematic debate, discussed approaches to building partnerships within and across sectors, including health, education, law enforcement and justice. The Commission for Social Development highlighted volunteering as an important way for people to participate in societal development, (Commission for Social Development draft resolution) drawing attention to the International Year of Volunteers (2001). The importance of participation and partnerships in promoting gender equality has been a recurrent theme in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, most recently in relation to HIV/AIDS and multiple forms of discrimination experienced by women. Active partnerships have been established with Habitat Agenda partners in implementing the global campaigns for security of tenure and urban governance (Commission on Human Settlements). The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice continued work to promote effective community-based crime prevention. The role of the private sector, including through public-private partnerships, multi-stakeholder approach and public participation was highlighted in the areas covered this year by the Commission on Sustainable Development, especially in energy development and transportation. Public-private and public-public partnerships were recommended as a mechanism in the mobilization of resources for sustainable development. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development encouraged partnerships involving Governments, academia and private enterprise, and including international cooperation, in biotechnology. The need for participation of young people as agents of change was raised by several Commissions, including by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in the development of prevention strategies targeting illicit drug use among this age group; the Commission on Human Settlements in conjunction with the implementation of the Habitat Agenda; and the Commission on the Status of Women in relation to racism affecting young women and men and the role of youth NGOs in educating young people to build societies based on respect and solidarity. In its thematic debate, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs focused on prevention education and early-intervention strategies and trends in drug abuse among children and young people. The Commission on Human Rights called on all relevant entities to include a child rights perspective in their work.

65. The Council could encourage the continued attention by the functional commissions to the involvement of all actors in implementation. It could invite the Commissions to expand and deepen their consideration of this issue by exploring productive forms of interaction among multiple stakeholders, and elaborate the types and forms of participation and partnerships which experience indicates are most conducive to progress in sectoral areas.

10. Summary of recommendations

66. For ease of reference, the recommendations contained in this section are summarized:

(a) Commissions continue to assess the links between sectoral policies and poverty reduction and eradication. This effort is taking on new urgency as steps are being taken towards achieving the quantitative goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration. Commissions could be invited to assess, in greater depth, the impact of particular policies on poverty reduction goals, and to identify good practices and lessons learned to increase the sharing of knowledge among all relevant actors, including functional commissions (see para. 19 above).

(b) Commissions continue to assess the role of science and technology for their areas of responsibility. Growing interest and focus is being placed on the role and potential of ICT in pursuing the goals and commitments of major United Nations conferences, summits and General Assembly special sessions. The Council's Ministerial Declaration of 2000 can be expected to continue to provide guidance to the work of the Commissions in this field. The Council could encourage its Commissions to strengthen their attention to the role of ICT for development in their areas of responsibility (see para. 36 above).

(c) In the light of the cross-cutting nature of gender equality, the Commission on the Status of Women continues its coordination with other functional commissions, in particular the Commission on Human Rights. Further efforts in this regard may be desirable in selected areas, such as violence against women, traffic in women and the integration of the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system by, for example, biennializing items, preparing joint reports, or identifying lead Commissions. The Commission on the Status of Women has recommended that the Council continue to support gender mainstreaming by establishing a regular item on its agenda, in the context of its general segment, on gender mainstreaming, and by reviewing implementation of Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 at a future coordination segment, by 2005 (Commission on the Status of Women draft resolution) (see para. 42 above).

(d) The special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS can be expected to build on the work of the intergovernmental machinery in recent years. Following its conclusion, efforts should be undertaken to ensure that relevant Commissions, as well as the Council in its coordination and oversight responsibilities, integrates the special session's outcome into their own work for effective implementation and follow-up (see para. 48 above).

(e) The work of the Commissions in 2001 on shelter and human settlements was in large part in line with their particular perspectives. Several cross-cutting dimensions, in particular the human rights and the gender perspective, can be noted. This provides opportunities, especially in the follow-up to action taken, for several

Commissions to seek greater interaction in future, including for example, joint reports, exchange of relevant reports and resolutions, joint Bureau meetings, or joint programming, as suggested by the Commission on Human Rights (see para. 53 above).

(f) Capacity-building is taking on particular urgency at a time when major emphasis is placed on national ownership in the development dialogue, including in processes such as the CCA/UNDAF, and the Comprehensive Development Framework and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (see also the reports on Operational Activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation at the substantive session of 2001 of the Council). The Council may seek further input from its functional commissions on the role of resource mobilization, capacity-building, research and data collection and information and knowledge sharing in their respective areas, with a respective focus on impact, gaps, good practices and lessons learned, and the types of capacity-building most commonly sought in the implementation of conference and summit outcomes. The Council could also consider taking up this issue in a comprehensive manner at an appropriate time in one of its future coordination segments (see para. 62 above).

(g) The Council could encourage the continued attention by the functional Commissions to the involvement of all actors in implementation. It could invite the Commissions to expand and deepen their consideration of this issue by exploring productive forms of interaction among multiple stakeholders, and elaborate the types and forms of participation and partnerships which experience indicates are most conducive to progress in sectoral areas (see para. 65 above).

II. Procedural aspects of the work of the Commissions in 2001

A. Overview of the work of the functional commissions in 2001

67. All functional commissions met during 2001.[2] Several continued to implement their multi-year programmes of work, and some also adopted new, or expanded existing, multi-year programmes, as summarized in the table below. Several commissions held debates on special themes.

68. In particular, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women elaborated work programmes for the period 2002 to 2006. The Commission on Sustainable Development completed its work programme for the years 1998-2001. At its tenth session in 2002, the Commission for Social Development will act as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which will also include a comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21. A new multi-year programme of work, to start in 2003 with the Commission's eleventh session, is expected to result from the Summit. The work programme of the Commission on Population and Development extends to 2003, and the Commission on Population and Development is expected to undertake a quinquennial review of the implementation of ICPD in 2004. The Statistical Commission has updated its work programme and expanded it up to the year 2004.

69. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Human Settlements have chosen the

themes for their thematic debates of 2002, and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development has chosen the theme for its next inter-sessional period, which will also form the core of the work at its sixth session. The Commission on Human Rights had determined that it would be difficult to adopt a multi-year work programme due to the range, scope and political nature of its work, as well as unforeseen changes in emphasis and priorities relating to subject matters. Since 1998, the Commission has conducted a debate on a special theme.

70. During 2001, Commissions that developed new, multi-year work programmes or expanded existing ones have to some extent taken into consideration the work programmes of other Commissions, as well as of relevant global events and processes. For example, the Commission on the Status of Women chose priority themes for 2002 and 2003 in relation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) and the World Summit on the Information Society (2003), and the Statistical Commission will review existing statistical programmes in relation to special years/observances (2003). This continues an established trend that was evident in the work of several Commissions in 2001. For example, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on the Status of Women focused on themes that related to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001), respectively. The Commission on Human Rights held a special debate on tolerance and respect, in relation to the World Conference against Racism.

71. These efforts should be continued, including by those Commissions that choose annual themes for a special debate. The Council may therefore wish to reiterate its earlier recommendation that coordination and collaboration in preparing work programmes be increased at the planning and formulation stage. To that end, the Council may wish to draw Commissions' attention to table 2 below as a tool for further harmonizing work programmes. Commissions could also request to be provided with comprehensive information about existing multi-year programmes of work when preparing new multi-year work programmes or selecting themes for thematic debates. The Council itself, when selecting themes for its coordination segment, could take into consideration commissions' multi-year work programmes.

72. As in previous years, Commissions' output included resolutions, agreed conclusions and decisions.[3] In some instances, Chairpersons' summaries of discussions, including of expert panels, are included in Commission reports. These are commonly non-negotiated texts.

73. Commissions adopt resolutions, and in some instances also decisions, on matters and issues within their own purview, and also prepare draft resolutions for adoption by the Council or, as the case may be, through the Council by the General Assembly. The practice of doing so differs among commissions, with some Commissions submitting either very few or no draft resolutions on particular issues for action by the Council,[4] and others routinely forwarding draft resolutions for action by the Council or the General Assembly. Given its own heavy workload, these draft resolutions are usually adopted by the Council without discussion.

74. In order to gain a better understanding of the types of issues submitted to it for action, or for transmission to the General Assembly for action, the Council may wish to request that the next consolidated report include an analysis of the practice of Commissions in the preparation of draft resolutions for action by the Council or

the General Assembly. Such an analysis could assist the Council in encouraging its Commissions consistently to take action on matters that fall within their own purview, while seizing the Council only of those matters that involve its coordination and oversight responsibilities, or that fall within the overall responsibility of the General Assembly.

Table 2
Work programmes of the functional commissions, 2000-2005/6

	Multi-year programme	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005* *2006*
Commission for Social Development	2002-2006	- Contribution of the Commission to the overall review and appraisal of the World Summit on Sustainable Development	-Enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalizing world; Role of volunteerism in promoting social development	- Integration of social and economic policy: • Social aspects of macro-economic policies;• Social assessment as a policy tool; • Expenditures in the social sector as a productive factor	- National and international cooperation for social development: • Sharing of experiences and practices in social development; • Forging partnerships for social development; • Social responsibility of the private sector; • Impact of employment strategies on social development; Policies and role of international financial institutions and their effect on national social development strategies	- Improving public sector effectiveness	(for 2005): - Review of further implementation of the outcome of the Social Summit and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (subject to decision of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 2001) (for 2006): - Review of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)
Commission on Population and Development	2000-2003	- Population, gender and development	- Population, environment and development	- Reproductive rights and reproductive health, with special reference to HIV/AIDS	- Population, education and development		

	Multi-year programme	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005* *2006*
Commission on the Status of Women	2002-2006	Comprehensive review of the Fourth World Conference on Women - Emerging issues	- Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS - Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular issues related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	- Eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world - Environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective	- Participation and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women - Women's human rights, and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly	- The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality - Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution, and in post-conflict peace-building	(for 2005): - Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (for 2006): - Enhanced participation of women in development; an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and for the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work - Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels

	Multi-year programme	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005 2006*
Commission on Sustainable Development	1998-2002	*Sectoral*: - Integrated planning and management of land resources *Cross-sectoral*: - Financial resources-trade and investment - Economic growth *Economic sector/major group*: - Agriculture - Day of indigenous people	*Sectoral*: - Atmosphere, energy *Cross-sectoral*: - Information for decision-making and participation - International cooperation for an enabling environment *Economic sector/major group*: - Energy, transport	Comprehensive review of Agenda 21			
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	Thematic debate for subsequent year	- International cooperation in combating transnational crime - Conclusions and recs. of the 10th United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders	- Progress made in global action against corruption	- Reform of the criminal justice system			
Commission on Narcotic Drugs	2001-2002		- Approaches to building partnerships within and across sectors, including health, education, law enforcement and justice;	- Follow-up to Action plan on international cooperation on the eradication of illicit drug crops and on alternative development			

	Multi-year programme	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005 2006*
			- Prevention education and early intervention strategies and trends in drug abuse among children and young people				
Commission on Science and Technology for Development	Theme for inter-sessional period and subsequent session		- National capacity-building in biotechnology with particular attention to agriculture and the agro-industry, health and the environment		- Technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society		
Statistical Commission	2000-2004	- Labour and compensation statistics - Household income statistics - Gender statistics - National accounts - Capital stock statistics - Expert group on intangibles - Round table on Business Survey Frames - International trade, tourism and finance statistics - International comparison programme - Price statistics - Informal sector and service statistics	- Human settlements statistics - Labour statistics - Gender statistics - Social statistics - National accounts - Capital stock statistics - International trade, price and informal sector statistics - International comparison programme - London Group on Environmental Accounting - Coordination and integration of statistical programmes	- Population and housing censuses - Labour and compensation statistics - Household income, poverty and social statistics - National accounts - Round table on Business Survey Frames - Price, informal sector and service statistics - Environment statistics - Coordination and integration of statistical programmes	- Gender statistics - Social statistics - Drugs - National accounts - Agricultural statistics - International trade and tourism statistics - Finance statistics - International comparison programme - Price statistics - Environment statistics - Coordination and integration of statistical programmes	- Population and housing censuses - Labour and compensation statistics - Household income statistics - Poverty statistics - National accounts - Round table on Business Survey Frames - Informal sector and service statistics - Environmental accounting - Coordination and integration of statistical programmes	

	Multi-year programme	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005 2006*
		- London Group on Environmental Accounting - Coordination and integration of statistical programmes - Programme questions - International economic and social classifications - Special data dissemination standard - Methodological Development Indicators - Follow-up to Council resolutions	- Programme questions - Handbook of statistical organization - UNDP *Human Development Report* - International economic and social classifications - Methodological Development - Review of existing statistical programmes in relation to United Nations special years/observances - Indicators - Follow-up to Council resolutions	- Programme questions - Special data dissemination standard - Information technology - Dissemination of statistics by the United Nations Statistical Division - Indicators - Follow-up to Council resolutions	- Programme questions - Management issues in national statistical offices - International economic and social classifications - Methodological Development - Review of existing statistical programmes in relation to United Nations special years/observances - Indicators - Follow-up to Council resolutions	- Programme questions - Management issues in national statistical offices - Methodological Development - Information technology - Dissemination of statistics by the United Nations Statistical Division - Indicators - Follow-up to Council resolutions	
Commission on Human Settlements	Special theme(s) chosen for subsequent session	- Security of tenure - Urban governance	- Urban development and shelter strategies favouring the poor - The rural dimension of sustainable urban development				
Commission on Human Rights	Special debate on a theme		- Tolerance and respect				

B. Working methods, including inter-sessional activities

75. In its resolution 1998/46, the Council encouraged its functional commissions to continue to review their working methods, and made a series of suggestions and recommendations in that regard. The Council also encouraged the Commissions to adopt practices best suited to their mandates, priorities and responsibilities.

76. Functional commissions have, to a large extent, made sustained efforts to improve their working methods, adapting them to the requirements of their mandates and workload. The present practice of each Commission in terms of working methods is summarized in the report of the Secretary-General on the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields (E/2001/INF/3). The following section highlights examples of the Commissions' working methods since the Council's last session, with particular reference to the Council's suggestions and recommendations put forward in resolution 1998/46.

1. In-depth review of working methods

77. Some Commissions considered their working methods in an in-depth manner in 2001. Supported by a report of the Secretary-General containing recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of its working methods (E/CN.6/2001/8), the Commission on the Status of Women discussed this issue and decided to continue to do so at its forty-sixth session. Preparatory work will be undertaken inter-sessionally, and the Commission intends to allocate adequate time to a discussion on this matter. During the thirty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development, several members called for improvements in its methods of work with a view to making its deliberations and consultations more focused, efficient and effective. Prior to the fortieth session of the Commission, the Bureau will undertake a preliminary assessment of the possibilities for improving the Commission's working methods and, in due course, convene inter-sessional open-ended informal consultations on this matter. The Commission on Human Rights improved its working methods by accepting the recommendations of its Bureau regarding issues such as: speaking time and other arrangements for "concerned countries", special procedures, guest speakers, national institutions; submission and introduction of draft resolutions and decisions; written statements submitted by NGOs and questions relating to NGO accreditation.

78. In 2001, two Commissions (the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice) were unable to complete their work during the regular session. The Commission on the Status of Women resumed from 9-11 May to complete its work, while the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will resume from 6 to 7 September 2001 for the same purpose. In addition, the Commission for Social Development decided to consider possible ways of further examining the priority issue of the thirty-ninth session at a future session ("Enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalizing world").

2. Inter-sessional activities

79. It is now standard practice of the functional commissions to undertake inter-sessional activities in follow-up to a previous session, as well as in preparation of an

upcoming session. Such inter-sessional activities involve either the Bureau or the entire membership of the commission, or both. The degree of formality of such meetings differs. Some commissions or bureaux meet as may be necessary to move the work forward, while others hold one or a series of scheduled inter-sessional informal meetings.

80. For example, it has been the standard practice of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development to hold an annual inter-sessional meeting, at which the work of the upcoming session of the Commission is discussed and prepared. The Bureau reports to the Commission in writing, and its report is also introduced orally (see, for example, E/CN.9/2001/CRP.1). The Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women met on a regular basis to plan the Commission's work and to discuss other related issues. The Bureau also held consultative briefings in January and February 2001 on the proposed multi-year programme of work and the recommendations on the enhancement of the effectiveness of the working methods of the Commission. The Bureau of the Commission for Social Development met inter-sessionally to consider issues related to the organization of work, the multi-year programme of work and to prepare the session. It also convened open-ended briefings on the preparations and the priority theme of the session. The Commission on Human Settlements has for some time been assisted inter-sessionally by an informal committee of Permanent Representatives. This year, the Commission proposed the formalization of this arrangement by recommending to the Council the establishment of a Committee of Permanent Representatives as an inter-sessional subsidiary body of the Commission to monitor follow-up, and to prepare future sessions of the Commission (see Commission on Human Settlements resolution 18/1 and draft decision for action by the Council).

81. The Statistical Commission has established groups of Member States and international organizations known as "friends of the chair" groups to help advance the Commission's work inter-sessionally. Groups of experts have also been convened for that purpose. These groups provide input into the discussions of various agenda items the Commission takes up at its session. The Commission on Sustainable Development established two ad hoc inter-sessional working groups to prepare draft decisions on the substantive themes of its ninth session.

82. There was a noted increase in the number of inter-sessional meetings of the Bureau of the Commission on Human Rights during 2000-2001, compared to previous years. The Bureau of the fifty-sixth session (2000) held 20 inter-sessional meetings. It also met with the incoming Bureau of the fifty-seventh session (which was elected on the first day of the 2001 session) in preparation for the annual session. The Commission's Bureau always meets as an Expanded Bureau, i.e., the Chair, three Vice-Chairs, and the Rapporteur, as well as the five regional coordinators. The Bureau of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission held its first post-sessional meeting immediately following the conclusion of the session in 2001 in order to highlight some of the issues, including preparations for the fifty-eighth session, which will be addressed during the inter-sessional period, inter alia, main rules and practices followed by the Commission in the organization of its work and the conduct of business; selection of a theme for special debate at the fifty-eighth session; time-management issues; documentation issues; interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate-holders during Commission sessions and relations with the Economic and Social Council and with the other functional commissions.

83. In the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, it was felt that much of the success of its session was due in large part to sustained inter-sessional preparation. Five inter-sessional meetings were held between September 2000 and March 2001, and addressed substantive issues related to the normative and operational segments of the agenda as well as organizational matters.

84. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held three inter-sessional meetings, including a pre-consultation meeting immediately before the tenth session, in 2001, which were instrumental in ensuring the smooth organization of work of the session.

3. Panels of experts

85. A number of Commissions now hold in-session panel discussions with experts representing a broad range of expertise and experience, and from different regions, commonly on priority issues identified in multi-year programmes of work or on special themes chosen for consideration from one year to the next. Following the presentations of panellists, Governments usually engage in an interactive debate with them and among themselves. Representatives of NGOs and other stakeholders are usually invited to participate in these discussions.

86. The practice of holding such expert panel discussions was continued by the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission for Social Development on the priority themes of their 2001 sessions. The discussion in the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the central theme of the tenth session was led by panellists' presentations, followed by an interactive dialogue. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held its first-ever thematic debate, animated by panels of international experts and followed by an interactive discussion between members of the Commission.

87. The Commission on Sustainable Development opened its session with four interactive multi-stakeholder dialogues. Representatives of businesses, NGOs, trade unions, local authorities and the scientific community participated in these dialogues. The high-level segment of the session also opened with a special panel. The Commission on Human Settlements held a very productive dialogue between Governments and Habitat Agenda partners.

88. While the Commission on Population and Development did not hold a panel discussion on the main theme of its session, a lead discussant contributed to the Commission's debate. The work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development was also facilitated by expert presentations on a number of issues.

89. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development prepared its fifth session through the convening of three panels on the main theme chosen for that period. An overview of the outcome of the work of the three panels along with findings and recommendations was submitted to the Commission and served as the basis for its work.

90. Prior to the sessions of the Commissions, several Commission secretariats organized expert group meetings on the substantive themes with the participation of international experts as well as relevant organizations of the United Nations system. These meetings provided inputs to the preparation of the substantive documents for Commissions. Examples of such expert groups include those organized for the

Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Statistical Commission.

4. Sharing of national experience

91. Few Commissions now undertake a systematic effort to share national experience, in particular on major themes of a session. Some Commissions hold short general debates, sometimes with a recommended focus, to highlight national experience.

92. The Commission on Population and Development held a general debate on national experiences in population matters, with a focus on population, environment and development. The Commission for Social Development continued to serve as a forum for exchanging national experiences in the area of social development, including in the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly.

5. Civil society participation

93. Representatives of NGOs and other stakeholders routinely participate in the work of the functional commissions. They participate in general debates, interactive dialogues, as members of panels, during separate NGO segments and in other forms that Commissions find most conducive to their mandates and the particular item under consideration.

94. For example, the Commission on Human Settlements has established a committee of local authorities as an advisory body to serve the purpose of strengthening the dialogue with local authorities worldwide that are involved in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. A total of 250 NGOs, consisting of 1,888 participants attended the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights.

6. Role of the Bureau

95. As noted above (see paras. 79-84), Commission bureaux are taking a pro-active role in preparing Commission sessions. This enhanced role of the bureaux has on occasion led to consideration of the best timing for the election of bureaux. Currently, only the Commission on the Status of Women elects its bureau for a two-year term of office.[5] The Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development elect the bureaux of their next session immediately after the conclusion, or at the end of an annual session. All other Commissions elect their bureaux on the first day of a new session. In some instances, and in order to strengthen continuity, Commissions re-elect one or more members of an outgoing bureau to serve on the incoming bureau.

7. Recommendations

96. In the light of the above, the Council may wish to consider the following recommendations:

(a) The Council may wish to encourage the functional commissions to continue to keep their working methods under review. In particular, it may wish to encourage the Commission on the Status of Women to complete its in-depth review of its working methods, encourage the Commission for Social Development to

proceed with such a review as soon as possible, and also invite the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to assess its working methods. The purpose of such reviews should be to ensure, in future, the timely and successful completion of the annual work programmes of the Commissions. Comprehensive information about the successful working methods of other functional commissions may be useful in undertaking these reviews.

(b) The Council may wish to encourage the Commissions to continue the successful use of panels of experts for the consideration of the main issues and topics on their annual agenda. Commissions may wish to ensure that for such panels, the practice of selecting the highest level of experience and expertise, and from a broad range of geographical areas, is continued. The Council may also emphasize that the panels should provide opportunities for interactive dialogue and debate, and the sharing of insights and innovative solutions to new and persistent challenges in particular areas. The Council may further wish to encourage the practice of including non-negotiated Chairpersons' summaries of such dialogues in the annual reports of the Commissions as a balanced record of the discussion. The summaries included in the reports of the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development could serve as examples.

(c) The Council may wish to urge Commissions to further develop opportunities for sharing national experience during annual sessions, in particular with regard to the implementation of conference outcomes. Such sharing of national experiences could take place on particular issues or topics, and be convened in the form of national presentations of lessons learned, good practices, innovative policies or case studies. Participation of multiple stakeholders, in addition to Governments, in the presentation of such national experiences could be encouraged. Commissions could be encouraged to allocate a certain amount of time for that purpose at their annual sessions.

(d) The Council could encourage its functional commissions to continue to explore opportunities for civil society participation in its work (see also paras. 63-65, and 66 (g) of the present report).

(e) The Council may wish to decide to undertake, in 2002, an assessment of the practice of Commissions to elect their Bureaux and to that end, request the Secretariat to include a summary of the Commissions' views, if any, in the next consolidated report, with a view to harmonizing the process of election of bureaux.

C. Horizontal coordination

97. During the reporting period, functional commissions continued their efforts to increase coordination on issues of common concern by means best suited to their mandates and priorities. Such coordination has taken place through direct contact among commissions, commonly through the Bureaux or Chairpersons, the exchange of reports and other documents, harmonization of work programmes and similar steps. Coordination is frequently also facilitated through cooperation among secretariats of functional commissions, especially in the preparation of documentation and participation of secretariat staff in Commission sessions. Examples of horizontal coordination are summarized below.

1. Interaction among commissions

98. The Commission on Human Settlements has a standing collaborative arrangement with the Commission on Sustainable Development, with a focus on the implementation of Agenda 21. In the preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Human Settlements will assess progress made in the implementation of chapters 7 and 21 of Agenda 21 (on promoting sustainable human settlements development, and on environmentally sound management of solid waste and sewage related issues, respectively), and submit the assessment to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

99. Close links were maintained between the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women. As in previous years, the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women addressed the Commission on Human Rights. The two Commissions are the only functional commissions whose bureaux meet to discuss issues of mutual interest. A videoconference is scheduled to take place on 21 June 2001. The Commissions are expected to continue coordination on a number of issues, including interaction on their respective confidential communications procedures, and the possibility of joint, or shared reports on questions such as trafficking in women and girls.

100. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs continued to work closely with each other, and have supported increased synergies between the two secretariats.

2. Cooperation at the secretariat level

101. The joint preparation of reports among two or more Commission secretariats, or submission of reports prepared primarily for one commission to another are practices that are gaining ground. The secretariat of the Commission on Human Settlements, i.e., UNCHS (Habitat), as the task manager for the implementation of chapters 7 and 21 of Agenda 21 is preparing the report on the implementation of these two chapters which will also be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) also prepared a report on human settlements statistics for the Statistical Commission (see E/CN.3/2001/2). The report on world population monitoring, 2001: population, environment and development (E/CN.9/2001/2), prepared for the Commission on Population and Development, also serves as input into the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

102. A report on capital punishment and implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, prepared by the Centre for International Crime Prevention for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was also made available to the Commission on Human Rights when it reviewed the question of the death penalty.

103. For a number of years, cooperation between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in support of better coordination of the work of the two Commissions has been reflected in an annual joint work plan (see E/CN.4/2001/70-E/CN.6/2001/3) which is submitted to both Commissions. The Division for the Advancement of Women has followed closely the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

in particular the activities of the Gender Advisory Board, a sub-organ of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development established in 1995.

104. All relevant documents and conclusions of the thirty-second session of the Statistical Commission were brought to the attention of the secretariats of other functional commissions on matters of possible interest to their respective Commissions.

105. Close working arrangements continued between the Centre for International Crime Prevention, the secretariat of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the secretariat for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, particularly through the establishment of common field offices and joint services in the area of fund raising, external relations and common secretariat.

3. Secretariat briefings

106. Increasingly, Secretariat representatives are invited to brief Commissions on the work of other Commissions and their secretariats. This was the case in a number of instances in 2001. The Commission on Population and Development was briefed by Secretariat officials of the Divisions for Social Policy and Development, the Advancement of Women, Sustainable Development, the Statistics Division and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. The Commission on Sustainable Development was briefed by the Director of the Statistics Division.

4. Recommendations

107. In the light of the above, the Council may wish to consider the following recommendations:

(a) The Council, noting that at present only two Commissions (the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights) have established the practice of holding an annual bureau meeting, may wish to encourage other Commissions with related interests to consider holding such meetings, including when necessary via videoconference. Such bureau meetings could be used to discuss both procedural questions (working methods, multi-year work programmes or themes for special debates, joint or shared report preparation, participation of civil society, etc.), as well as substantive and policy questions in areas of common interest.

(b) The Council may wish to encourage Commissions to share more systematically the outcome of their work, including through communications among Chairpersons summarizing the main outcomes of their annual sessions, the possibility of inviting Chairpersons of other commissions to address an annual session, or participation of a Chairperson (or Bureau member) to participate in informal presentations or briefings organized in conjunction with an annual session.

(c) The Council may wish to encourage its functional commissions to request more joint reports from their secretariats, or to request submission, on related topics, of the same report to two or more commissions. The report on capital punishment can serve as an example in this regard.

(d) The Council may wish to encourage other functional commissions to follow the example of the Commission on Population and Development and invite

Secretariat representatives servicing other functional commissions to provide briefings on issues of common interest.

D. Vertical coordination

108. In its resolution 1998/46 (annex II, para. 16), the Council had encouraged "the bureaux of the functional commissions, along with the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council, ... to enhance coordination, in particular through regular meetings whenever necessary". The following section describes the links between the functional commissions and the Economic and Social Council.

109. In 2001, the Council Bureau met with the bureaux of each of the functional commissions. These meetings took place either at United Nations Headquarters in New York or were held via videoconference with Commissions that convene in other locations (Nairobi, Vienna and Geneva).

110. While the Council Bureau in general proposed three main issues for discussion in the joint bureau meetings,[6] the scope of the meetings varied depending on the issues of greatest concern to the Commissions.

111. The joint meetings took place in a spirit of common purpose and desire to contribute to the achievement of the overall development goals in the economic, social and related fields. There was a general sense of the usefulness of these once-yearly coordination meetings between the Council and its Commissions, which also greatly contributed to a better sense of the issues dealt with by the Council and its commissions during the course of a year. This improved information exchange had also increased an appreciation that the Council and the Commissions did not work in isolation from each other, but rather could benefit from each other's efforts, and mutually reinforce the policies and action strategies each developed in their area of responsibility.

1. Input to the substantive session of 2001 of the Council

112. While recognizing the importance of contributing to the themes of the substantive session of the Council, it was also noted that a number of Commissions now implement multi-year programmes of work. As a consequence, Commissions had less flexibility to change topics chosen well in advance. Furthermore, the provisional agendas of Commissions were usually prepared before the Council selected the themes for its high-level and coordination segments.

113. In several joint meetings, bureaux members highlighted specific recent outputs of Commissions which the Council could take into consideration during its high-level segment in 2001. For example, the Council's attention was drawn to several commitments in the outcome document of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (Copenhagen+5), particularly on poverty eradication and resource mobilization, which were considered highly relevant in this regard. The Council was also invited to take into account the enormous potential of biotechnology for supporting national efforts in food security, improved health and environmental sustainability in Africa. While the report on the world population monitoring, 2001: population, environment and development (E/CN.9/2001/2) covered all countries of the world, particular attention was given to Africa concerning the effects of HIV/AIDS in the region, and could thus contribute to the

Council's work. A panel discussion on human settlements issues in Africa was expected to provide input to the high-level segment. The task of intensifying the fight against drugs in Africa was an important issue to be considered, as was the impact of crime on development, particularly within the context of deprivation of resources for societies, which resulted in an impediment to development, particularly in Africa. The Council's attention was also drawn to the need to include a gender perspective into all aspects of this segment.

114. With regard to the Council's 2001 coordination segment, follow-up undertaken by Commissions in 2001 to the Council's Ministerial Declaration of 2000 were highlighted and Commissions' future plans in the area of ICT were discussed. Of ongoing concern was the use of ICT by organized crime as well as ICT's potential for fighting criminal activities. In the area of science and technology for development, *Knowledge Societies: Information Technology for Sustainable Development*[7] contained comprehensive guidelines for national ICT strategies. The ongoing technical work on indicators and their contribution to the Council's work was stressed.

2. Follow-up to conferences

115. The importance of an effective and integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits was stressed in a number of joint meetings (for the views of Commissions on this question, see E/2001/73). Several bureaux noted their Commissions' contributions, or intention to contribute, to events, including the World Assembly on Ageing, the special sessions of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS and on children, and the World Summit on the Information Society.

3. Working methods

116. Several bureaux briefed the Council on improvements in their working methods and conduct of business, and the positive experience gained in this regard. Some Commissions drew attention to their extremely heavy workloads, and how best to improve these in the light of a proliferation of themes for discussion, and the complexity of the topics covered. Opportunities for developing cooperative links with the newly established United Nations Forum on Forests were also discussed. The relationship with NGOs, especially during the sessions of Commissions, was reviewed.

117. In addition to increased interaction with commission secretariats, bureaux underlined the usefulness of the participation and contribution of other entities of the United Nations system to the work of the Commissions, including the regional commissions.

4. Recommendations

118. In the light of the above, the Council may wish to consider the following recommendations:

(a) In order to strengthen coordination among Commissions, as well as between the Council and the Commissions, the Council may wish to support the participation of Commission Chairpersons during the Council's consideration of the consolidated report in its general segment, for example, through an introductory panel presentation by Commission Chairpersons (or their designated alternate), and

subsequent dialogue with the Council. Such an annual dialogue could focus on some of the main trends, issues and approaches identified in the consolidated report (see part I of the present report), and could also raise common concerns with regard to working methods.

(b) The Council may wish to encourage the Commissions to provide concise, action-oriented input to its annual high-level and coordination segments. This would be greatly facilitated if the Council were to choose the topics for these two segments as early as possible, preferably during its substantive session. Commissions could be encouraged to use, as applicable, their standing agenda item on new trends and emerging issues to elaborate such input (see E/2001/73, para. 50, on use of item on new and emerging trends).

(c) In order to facilitate Commissions' follow-up to the policy guidance that emanates from the Council's substantive session, the Council may wish to encourage the respective secretariats to provide concise notes on actions already planned or undertaken by their Commissions, or to propose steps that Commissions could take in follow-up to Council guidance. The notes prepared for the Commission on the Status of Women and the Statistical Commission could serve as examples.

119. The two recommendations contained in paragraphs 71 and 74 are also relevant to strengthening coordination among the Commissions and between the Council and the Commissions.

Notes

[1] These were of specific relevance to the Commission on Human Settlements as they dealt with the coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the Habitat Agenda.

[2] The Commission on Science and Technology for Development is at present the only Commission that meets every other year. In a draft resolution before the Council, the Council would decide that the Commission should meet annually. The draft does not indicate when this change in periodicity would come into effect. (Draft resolution III in the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.) The Commission on Human Settlements is a standing committee of the Council.

[3] The Commissions' resolutions and decisions, including draft resolutions for action by the Council, are contained in the reports of the Commissions to the Council.

[4] Commissions' provisional agendas for the subsequent session are always submitted to the Council for action.

[5] In the Statistical Commission, elections are held annually in accordance with the rules of procedure, but Bureau members are expected to be re-elected and serve for two years.

[6] Follow-up by functional commissions to Council guidance; possible contribution by the Commissions to the work of the Council in 2001 (high-level and coordination segments); and enhancement of an integrated and coordinated implementation of, and follow-up to, the major United Nations conferences and summits.

[7] *Knowledge Societies: Information Technology for Sustainable Development*, Robin Mansell and Uta Wehn, eds. (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1998), for the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

Annex

Joint Meetings held in 2001 between the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council and the bureaux of its functional commissions

Functional commission	*Date of meeting*
Statistical Commission	9 March 2001
Commission on Human Settlements (via videoconference New York/Nairobi)	15 March 2001
Commission on Narcotic Drugs (via videoconference New York/Vienna)	28 March 2001
Commission on Population and Development	5 April 2001
Commission on Sustainable Development	26 April 2001
Commission on the Status of Women	2 May 2001
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (via videoconference New York/Vienna)	15 May 2001
Commission for Social Development	25 May 2001
Commission on Science and Technology for Development (via videoconference New York/Geneva)	31 May 2001
Commission on Human Rights (via videoconference New York/Geneva)	18 June 2001